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JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION SINCE 1877

BRIEFS

SOUND SYSTEMS MUST TRANSITION BY 2020

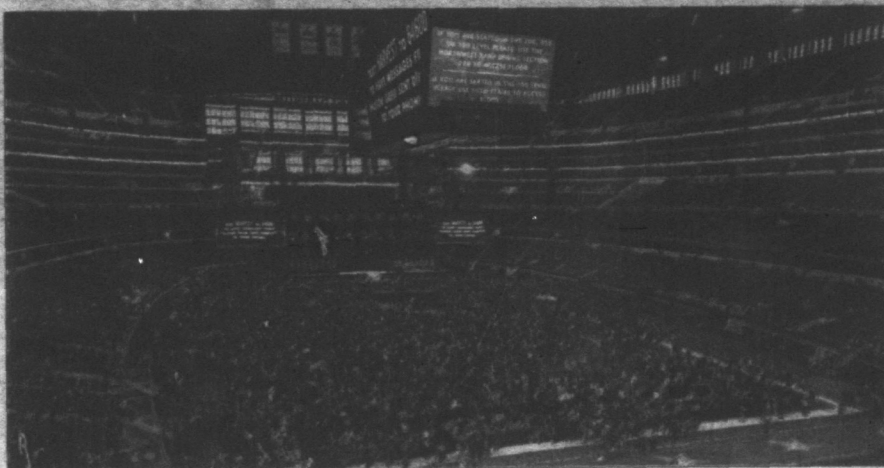
WASHINGTON (BP) — Churches that haven't updated their wireless sound system may have trouble being heard on any given Sunday, as the federal government is phasing out the 600MHz frequencies many congregations use. The frequencies are being transitioned to wireless communicators such as cellphone companies to meet industry demand, and will become unavailable for use by wireless mic systems by the deadline or earlier, according to the FCC. The transition must be completed by July 13, 2020. Violators could face fines or additional criminal penalties, the FCC reported.

VOLCANO'S ERUPTION TRAPS MISSION TEAM

ESCUINTLA CITY, Guatemala (BP) — A Southern Baptist youth mission team in Guatemala when a volcano erupted June 3 is still helping churches hold and feed survivors. The 10-member team from Bear Cove Church in Sparta, Tenn., arrived in Escuintla City June 1 to help Baptist churches there evangelize urban youth, church youth minister Justin Wesson told Baptist Press June 4. Rescue teams were having difficulty identifying the bodies of victims, USA Today reported, as the lava erased such markers as fingerprints and visual features.

COINS RECOVERED FROM EZRA/NEHEMIAH PERIOD

ISRAEL (BP) — The Temple Mount Sifting Project recently discovered five rare coins dating from the Fourth century B.C., doubling the number unearthed so far and providing some of the earliest evidence of Jewish coin minting in Israel. According to The Times of Israel, the coins come from around the period of time described in the Old Testament books of Ezra and Nehemiah, which record the Jewish people's return to Jerusalem after their downfall and subsequent Babylonian exile, and the beginning of construction of the Second Temple by decree of Cyrus the Great, the king of Persia.



INVITATION GIVEN — At the end of the Crossover Harvest America crusade, California pastor Greg Laurie invited attendees in AT&T Stadium in Arlington, Texas, outside Dallas, to respond to his invitation to give their lives to Christ. More than 2,300 people made decisions at the end of the night and received a new Bible. (BP photo)

Crossover Dallas wraps up

of faith during crusade

DALLAS (BP and local reports) — "I'm not here to talk to you about religion," California pastor Greg Laurie told the crowd on the evening of June 10 at AT&T Stadium in Arlington, Texas, for the Crossover Dallas Harvest America crusade at the conclusion of the Crossover

Dallas evangelistic event that preceded the opening of the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) 2018 annual meeting.

"I'm here to talk to you about a relationship with God that you can experience," he said. "Christ can fill that big hole that is in your heart right now. We all

need Him. We all need a Savior. There's so much stuff to distract us and emptiness to make us feel alone. Yet, Jesus, who created us, also gives us purpose. Jesus loves us all — no matter what we do or say or have done before — so much."

Laurie, 65, is a native Californian. He is senior pastor of Harvest Christian Fellowship and Harvest Church of Woodcrest, both in Riverside, Ca.; Harvest Church of Eastvale in

see CROSSOVER on p. 9

Attorney confuses Patterson situation

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP and local reports) — An attorney who claims terminated Southwestern Seminary President Paige Patterson is his client has admitted that a news media release he distributed June 4 defending Patterson against alleged "wide-spread misrepresentation and misinformation" did not have the approval of Patterson.



SHARPE



PATTERSON

Shelby Sharpe of the law firm Sharpe, Tillman, and Melton, P.C., in Fort Worth said Patterson "had nothing to do" with the June 4 release. Though the release was submitted by Sharpe over the signature line of his legal firm, Sharpe said, "I initiated it myself as a person and not as his lawyer at all."

Sharpe said he informed Patterson he was compiling the release but added, "I did not get his approval. I did not

see PATTERSON on p. 8

Lottie giving over \$5M ahead of 2017



ENGAGING THE LOST — Southern Baptists' gifts through the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering make it possible for missionaries such as Texan Lindsay Mikeska (third from right) to live and work in megacities like London where millions need to hear the Gospel. (BP photo courtesy of International Mission Board)

RICHMOND, Va. (BP) — Southern Baptists' contributions to support international missions through the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering (LMCO) for International Missions are 3.75% ahead of offering totals for the same period last year.

That's according to a report by Rodney Freeman, treasurer and vice president of support services for the International Mission Board (IMB) of the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) in Richmond, Va.

At the end of May, IMB had received \$142,683,654 so far for the 2017-2018 campaign, which began Oct. 1 and ends Sept. 30. This total is \$5,161,874 (3.75%) ahead of last year's LMCO receipts to support Southern

see LOTTIE on p. 11

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From the editor

WILLIAM PERKINS

Jack is back

When the U.S. Supreme Court ruled heavily in favor of a small bake shop owner from Colorado who declined to prepare a wedding cake for a homosexual couple's upcoming marriage, there was cheering all around in conservative quarters and lots of badmouthing in the LGBT political movement.

Legal eagles made note of the fact that the high court's "narrow" ruling didn't really settle the issue of forcing religious adherents to fully accommodate the wishes of people practicing lifestyles that go against sincerely-held beliefs.

Most cake bakers, wedding planners, photographers, owners of reception halls, and others involved in the business end of marriage and weddings were just relieved to get at least a small bit of the issue addressed so they can go back to work.

That's exactly what Jack Phillips, the Colorado baker, did at his Masterpiece Cakeshop outside Denver. The punishing fist of the State of Colorado had forced him to stop baking wedding cakes, but he announced shortly after the Supreme Court ruling that he is ready to once again fire up his ovens. One could confidently assume that those new cakes won't offend Phillips' religious beliefs, either.

Don't rest easy, though. The LGBT political movement isn't finished with Jack Phillips and his ilk. As Chad Griffin, president of the radically pro-LGBT group Human Rights Campaign, and other LGBT supporters have promised many times, there will be other lawsuits until the movement accomplishes its goals.

Griffin said after this latest ruling, "Anti-LGBTQ extremists did not win the sweeping 'license to discriminate' they have been hoping for — and today's ruling does not change our nation's longstanding civil rights laws."

Griffin may be right about the first part. The court's ruling did not address the larger issue of religious rights as much as it focused on the mistreatment of Phillips and the violation of his constitutional rights by the State of Colorado.

Anthony Kennedy, the nominee of U.S. President Ronald

Reagan who has consistently ruled in favor of LGBT rights for the balance of his time on the Supreme Court, in his majority opinion heavily criticized the State of Colorado for, in essence, railroading Phillips over his religious beliefs.

A little history: Virtually ignoring the homosexual angle of the issue, members of the Colorado Civil Rights Commission with the full power of the State behind them had openly criticized Phillips for his religious beliefs (he stood firm), ordered him to bake wedding cakes for everyone (he stopped making wedding cakes at all), and mandated his employees attend human rights training (whether he agreed to it or not).

One commissioner equated religion with slavery and the Holocaust. Another commissioner openly stated, "(I)t is one of the most despicable pieces of rhetoric that people can use to — to use their religion to hurt others."

Kennedy, whose swing vote legalized same sex marriage nationwide a few years ago, was quick to condemn those remarks in his majority opinion.

To describe a man's faith as 'one of the most despicable pieces of rhetoric that people can use' is to disparage his religion in at least two distinct ways: by describing it as despicable, and also by characterizing it as merely rhetorical — something insubstantial and even insincere...

This sentiment is inappropriate for a Commission charged with the solemn responsibility of fair and neutral enforcement of Colorado's anti-discrimination law — a law that protects [against] discrimination on the basis of religion as well as sexual orientation," Kennedy wrote.

Well, at least the Phillips case was a victory for religious people who are asking only to be treated fairly in the legal arena when faced with the widespread acceptance and promotion of bigotry against religion and open hostility toward individual constitutional rights that has come to define this country in modern times.

That's something. Let's pray for more.

The Ties That Bind

As I progress toward retirement after what will have been 16 years of service to Mississippi Baptists and Mississippi College, I posit these enduring questions: What would Mississippi College be if it were simply a venerable and reputable academic institution with high rankings in so many academic areas? What would it be were it not committed to its founding principle of Christian higher education and, since 1850, committed to an alliance with the Mississippi Baptist Convention?

I submit that our great and enduring distinctive remains the combination of a reputable academic program with over 100 offerings and a powerful Christian witness that seeks to lead our students to faith in Jesus Christ and to deepen their walk with Him as we support the evangelistic and missions work pursued by Southern Baptists.

May the bonds that bind together the nation's second oldest Baptist college and its sponsoring convention ever be strong. The university would be so much less and, in some ways, adrift without the Convention, and the Convention's ministry would be impoverished without Mississippi College.

How sad when a college or convention believes it must sever the ties that bind them together. It remains a fact that the decline of mainline Protestant denominations is coincident with severing the bonds that bound them to their colleges.

Make no mistake about it — there is a ministry of Christian higher education as we seek to lead students to faith in Christ while offering an array of discipleship opportunities, both in the educational fields they choose to study and in extracurricular mission opportunities locally and around the world.

Our commitment to leading students to Jesus Christ has long endured. In 1859, we reported to the Mississippi Baptist Convention, "That at the great revival of the Clinton Baptist Church of last May and June, 30 of the students of Mississippi College were hopefully converted."

As in 1859, so it is now, as we have led over 1,150 students to faith in Christ in the last 15 years with an additional 2600 persons who have received Christ on this campus through the summer camp ministry and the Will Graham Crusade. More than 5,000 students have engaged in mission service over the last 15 years. Only God knows the cumulative and eternal impact of that Kingdom work.



Guest opinion
with Lee Royce

I recognize the challenges of insisting on the primacy of Jesus Christ in an academic world enamored of relativism, atheism, post-modernism, and a polymorphous approach to human sexuality, but we three colleges of the Mississippi Baptist Convention are not embarrassed about adopting a privileged position for Christian truth. We embrace it and insist on the premises of the Christian Gospel.

For that reason we require a Gospel-filled chapel and organize scores of programs, organizations, and missions to deepen the Christian life of our students. We require of our students courses in the Bible, for biblical literacy is the ground upon which so much knowledge of our culture is based and upon which we build a life pleasing to God.

Because we believe in the Christian faith that animates Christian higher education, we organize college life to encourage Christian behavior, both in the things we prohibit and the things we encourage. We recognize that we have sin on campus, but we do not celebrate it or organize for it.

Please continue to pray for and support the three institutions of Christian higher education affiliated with this Convention. Send us your students, support the Cooperative Program, and make provision for us in your estate plans through the Mississippi Baptist Foundation.

Mississippi Baptists are an unusual people in their kindness, generosity, and unity. May that always be so. It has been a great honor for me and my wife Rhoda to serve Mississippi College. Thank you for the opportunity to serve Mississippi Baptists, and may God continue to bless the educational ministry of the Mississippi Baptist Convention.

Royce retired last month from the presidency of Mississippi College in Clinton. Royce and his wife Rhoda plan to settle in northern Virginia near their son, a college instructor. Edited for style.

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Editor
William H. Perkins Jr.
wperkins@mbcb.org

Associate Editor
Tony Martin
tmartin@mbcb.org

Layout/Design
Megan Young
myoung@mbcb.org

Advertising
Dana Richardson
drichardson@mbcb.org

Circulation Manager
DeAnna Burgess
dburgess@mbcb.org

Baptist Record
Advisory Committee:
Whit Lewis, New Albany
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Record, P.O. Box 530,
Jackson, MS
39205-0530.

Tel: (601) 988-3800
Fax: (601) 292-3330
E-mail: baptistrecord@mbcb.org



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Analysis: Why is VBS special to so many churches?

By Melita Thomas
Correspondent

Vacation Bible School (VBS) is synonymous with summer in many churches, perhaps because it's been around in one form or another since 1898. LifeWay Christian Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention offers an interesting VBS history lesson on their web site, at tinyurl.com/storyofvbs.

In kid's ministry, which is often marked by trendy and short-lived fads, VBS is a proven program with real staying power. Here are three reasons churches turn to VBS year after year.

■ **VBS is an effective evangelism strategy.** Based on Annual Church Profile data, VBS is used by more than 25,000 Southern Baptist churches each year to reach more than 2.5 million people. Last year, these Southern Baptist churches reported more than 70,000 professions of faith as a direct result of VBS. Talk about impact!

If VBS were to suddenly disappear from these churches, what evangelistic strategy would take its place? VBS isn't just about games, crafts, and snacks. Its primary purpose is leading people to experience the life-transforming power of the Gospel.

■ **God calls people to vocational ministry through VBS.** Many pastors, staff members, and missionaries cite a VBS experience as the first time they personally felt God's call to vocational ministry. In this sense, VBS can become a training ground for the next generation of church leaders.

Additionally, the missions component of VBS exposes children to the work of missionaries serving around the world. As kids learn about, pray for, and participate in missions, God just might be preparing them to one day say, "Here I am, Lord. Send me!"

■ **VBS gives churches more time with kids and parents.** A traditional VBS structure involves three hours of church engagement a day for five days in a row. That type of interaction provides opportunities for evangelism, discipleship, and relationship-building that could otherwise take months to accomplish based on typical church attendance patterns.

When follow-up is made a priority, the relationships don't end once VBS is over. VBS is the perfect opportunity for a church to connect with children and families who might not otherwise attend.

VBS is a fun and non-threatening way for kids to get exposure to the church. VBS gives kids an opportunity to develop a sense of ownership



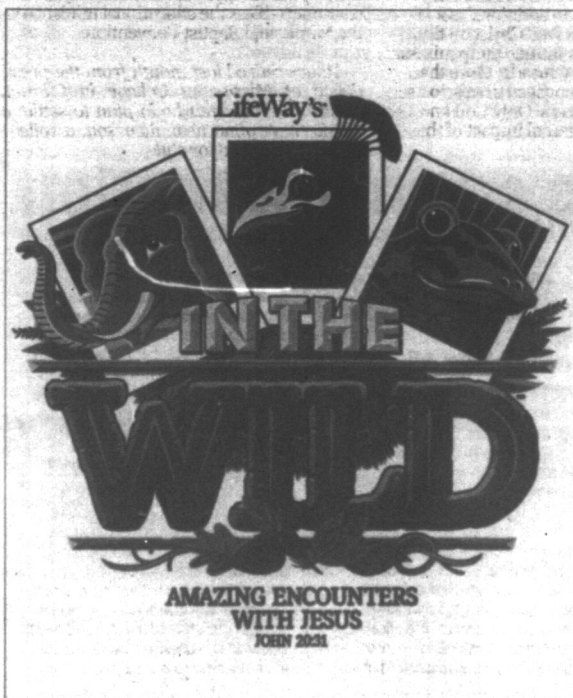
TRADITION OF FUN — Melita Thomas, LifeWay's Vacation Bible School ministry specialist, says VBS can be fun for kids and adults but most importantly, it presents opportunities to have an impact on lives for eternity. (BP photo courtesy of LifeWay)

(my room, my teacher, my friends) that makes them want to return.

Hosting a VBS celebration or family night at the end of VBS also allows parents within the church to make connections with parents outside the church.

Although VBS is flexible, dependable, and fun, most importantly it has the opportunity to have an impact on lives for eternity as kids, teens, and adults come to know the saving power of Jesus Christ. That alone makes VBS worth it!

Thomas is VBS ministry specialist for LifeWay Christian Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention in Nashville. Her commentary appears courtesy of Baptist Press. Expanded for inclusion of historical references. Edited for style.



LifeWay announces its 2019 Vacation Bible School theme

NASHVILLE (BP) — Next summer, kids will search for animals in rainforests, grasslands, frozen tundra, and even the Rocky Mountains with In the Wild, the 2019 Vacation Bible School (VBS) theme from LifeWay Christian Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention in Nashville.

In the Wild will have kids embark as photographers seeking to snap pictures in settings decorated to mimic animals' natural habitats. Along the way, kids will also learn about real-life encounters people had with Jesus and discover how biblical snapshots of the Savior provide an opportunity to respond to the Gospel.

"This is going to be such a fun theme," said Melita Thomas, VBS specialist for LifeWay. "It's a photo scavenger hunt in the wild where it's possible to see absolutely anything."

"Last summer, more than 70,000 people made professions of faith as a direct result of VBS."

Melita Thomas

VBS specialist for LifeWay

As kids explore different locales on the lookout for wildlife, they'll also study eyewitness accounts of Jesus from the Gospels — stories to help them zoom in and focus on Christ.

"All of these 'snapshots' of Jesus that we see in Scripture were recorded so we might believe Jesus is who He said He is: the Messiah, the Son of God," Thomas said. "These eyewitness accounts are a strong apologetic [and] one that kids need to hear."

VBS remains one of the most popular church programs in

America, LifeWay Research shows. Six in 10 Americans say they went to VBS growing up, and 95% of parents whose children have attended VBS say it provided a positive experience.

"Last summer, more than 70,000 people made professions of faith as a direct result of VBS," Thomas said, citing data from the Southern Baptists' Annual Church Profile.

In the Wild was revealed through a Facebook Live event June 7. During the reveal, LifeWay also announced locations for 2019 VBS preview events:

- Ridgecrest, N.C., Jan. 11-12
- Houston, Texas, Jan. 18-19
- Fort Worth, Texas, January 25-26

Additionally, three back-to-back preview events will be held in Hendersonville, TN., in late January and early February of 2019.

For more information, visit LifeWay.com/VBS.

Right up front, let me tell you this is not necessarily going to be the finest article I have ever written. Actually, I need to confess. My best inspirational thoughts and most insightful information about fathers, I preached in sermons over 50 years ago. The reason I tell you that is because those were the days before I was a father.

I had a father. I was very thankful for him. Now that I am a father and a grandfather, I wish I had been a better father and that I would be even a better grandfather. All that said, I'm sitting down to write this article entitled, Facts about Fathers, and there are not many facts that I have. I can tell you about three things, quickly, just rapid fire, that I do know.

One: There are no perfect fathers. I've never met one. I'm not one. I didn't have one. There are no perfect fathers, except for the Heavenly Father.

Two: Most of us are aware we could be better fathers. There are areas of our lives that we could rearrange. Time we could give. Habits we could change. Hopes that we could exchange. We could be better fathers. We often think about that and need to pause and give more consideration to it.

Three: This is a good time to start being a better father. You can do it. I can do it. We all can get closer to the Heavenly Father and by His strength and power, by His grace and love, we can be finer fathers than we've ever been. Most of us know and God knows we need better fathers in this world. You can be one of those without a doubt. How? Well, there are three simple things that I would like to pass on to you that would help you be the father that the Lord wants you to be.

Be an example. At the early days of God raising up His people, He had one follower by the name of Abraham who trusted Him, loved Him, and wanted to serve Him. He was a friend of God, and He was a man of God. You know the story. I won't go in depth about it, but he and his wife had been promised a child of promise and hope for the future. Years went by, decades went by, and no child, but then the child would



Facts about Fathers

come. Listen to what God said about Abraham in Genesis 18:19, "For I know him, that he will command his children and his household after him, and they shall keep the way of the Lord, to do justice and judgment."

Whenever I read those words I hear the voice of God saying, "I know him, and I know what he will do." Abraham was dependable and predictable. He was going to be the father of a great nation until this day. He was an example. How do you become an example? There are two simple truths. When there are things you want your children to do, you do them yourself. Your lectures, your tongue lashings, your demanding and yelling are not as powerful as your example. You want them to be law abiding, good citizens? You do it yourself. You want them to be faithful to the church, read their Bibles, and pray? You do it yourself. You want them to be respectful in the way they treat people and the way they talk about people? You do it yourself. As well you can imagine, this is a list that would fill up The Baptist Record this week. The other simple thing is if there are things you don't want them to do, then you don't do them. You don't want them to cheat, lie, gossip, cuss, do drugs, smoke, drink? Another paper could be filled up with the list. You don't do those things.

I remember a young man who had gotten in trouble at school and with

the authorities because he had been caught with some marijuana. It was a small amount and he had been smoking it. The father came to me in distress. His son had been caught and was in trouble with the law because he had been smoking marijuana. He asked, "How in the world? We've had that kid in church. Where would he ever get such an idea that he could do something like that?" He was a good friend of mine and I didn't chew him out, but knowing he had a pack of cigarettes in the front pocket of his shirt I just reached over and tapped the pack of cigarettes and said, "He may have learned right here." The man could not believe and did not say anything, but soon reflected to me that he had made the personal decision that he would no longer smoke. It's not easy to quit a habit like that, but he did. Be an example for your children.

Be an encourager and example. Encourage your kids to do their best, not just to be the best in the class but to be their best in whatever they're doing whether it's on the soccer field or in the math book, whether they're participating in a church activity or a clean-up day in the community. Do your best. You as a father may not have been always at your best but truthfully, you may have been doing the best you could with what you had in the environment at the time. Encourage your kids to do the same.

Be an enlightener, encourager, and example. The enlightener stays focused on the most important thing in all of life, which is to answer the question: "What have you done with Jesus?" Not too long ago, I was listening to a recording of one of the last sermons my dad preached. He's been gone for decades, but his voice was as clear and resonating in my heart as though he preached it last Sunday. In that message, he was dealing with Matthew 7:13-14 which says, "Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it." He was pointing the congregation to Jesus as he had pointed his sons to Jesus so many times throughout his ministry and his fatherhood.

We knew the pathway clearly. When this life is over, it is the most important fact of all that our children have come to a relationship with Jesus that will last through eternity, not just to span a short period of time called life here but life everlasting. Be an enlightener. I know fathers who spend so much time wanting to invest in their children's games and activities and enrichment of life. What if you gave them everything or, to think of it in terms as Jesus said, "For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul" (Matt. 16:26)? What have you done?

To be an enlightener is to make sure your children, your grandchildren, and anyone who knew you as a father, anyone that you touched their life, to make them understand that Jesus is not just a good answer for life. He is the answer for life everlasting. We may not be perfect, but we can help make a difference in this old imperfect world. Happy Father's Day, guys. May God bless each of you to begin a new day in your walk with Jesus to influence all of your children.

The author can be contacted at directions@mbcb.org.

First Person: Take God along on summer vacation

By Autumn Wall
Correspondent

It's summertime and you know what that means: family vacation! It's a great opportunity to make memories together and get away from the routines — or the chaos — of everyday life.



WALL

The danger in vacation, however, is that we tend to want to check out of every part of life and that's not helpful for any of us. Here are some ways to keep Christ at the center of your vacation and find true rest this summer while you spend time together:

Build time with Jesus into your day every morn-

ing and lead your family to do the same. Read through a book of the Bible as a family or have a discussion about what you're each individually studying. If your children are little, read to them, take along some Bible videos, or watch some that you've screened on YouTube.

Take time to really pray together (not just over your food). Ask each person to share one thing they are struggling with in their relationship with God and one way they feel they may be doing well in their walk with Him. Don't critique or lecture, just pray with them for what's on their hearts. Don't forget to share yours, too. Kids need to hear that mom and dad struggle but that they know how to take that struggle to Jesus.

If you're gone on a Sunday, visit a church...This is a great way to teach your children that gathering with the people of God is not something we do because we know and love the people in your church; it's a thing we do because we know and love Jesus.

If you're gone on a Sunday, visit a church. Do research ahead of time and find a Bible-teaching church in the area where you are vacationing and plan to take your family there for worship. This is a great way to teach your children that gathering with the people of God is not something we do because we know and love the people in your church; it's a thing we do because we know and love Jesus.

Over the course of a weeklong vacation, plan a one-hour outreach together. Go somewhere to serve oth-

ers, find someone on the beach you can share Jesus with, take a homeless person to lunch with your family, have your kids draw pictures, and write encouragements to hand out to waiters, convenience store attendants or hotel hosts.

When you're out to eat (or in a drive-through while traveling), secretly pay for someone else's dinner. Be sure to leave a note for them that says, "Enjoy your lunch today on us! We are praying for you." Be sure to follow up by gathering your family to

pray specifically for the person you just blessed.

Find a faith-based book to read, audio to listen to, or video to watch as you drive. Mom and dad, be sure you have read/watched it beforehand and be ready with some age-appropriate questions to help your family think through what they've just heard.

This year, don't take a vacation from God; take a vacation with God. Use the opportunity to intentionally lead your family to rest well together while growing in your faith.

Online at autumnwall.com, Wall is an author, speaker, worship leader, pastor's wife, and mom of three in Indianapolis. Her commentary appears courtesy of Baptist Press. Edited for style.



What a blessing to participate in the 15th anniversary of Watchmen on the Wall (May 23-25) in Washington, D.C. Their annual pastors' briefing is sponsored by the Family Research Council led by Tony Perkins. The three days of encouragement and equipping were filled with great speakers such as Rep. Jody Hice (Ga.), Rep. Tim Walberg (Mich.), Rep. Mark Walker (N.C.), Rep. Mark Meadows (N.C.), and Sen. James Langford (Ok.).

The opening session was led by Josh McDowell, who called for repentance from the problem of pornography throughout our society. Pastor Carter Conlon — Time Square Church, New York City — called us to prayer and fasting.

Former Governor of Kansas, Sam Brownback, now serves as United States Ambassador-at-Large for International Religious Freedom. He told of persecution of Christians around the globe and reminded us of how blessed we are with freedom of religion. Lt. General (retired) William Boykin (Executive Vice President, Family Research Council, Former Commander, Delta Force) commissioned all of us to go forth and give freely, defend the

faith, free the oppressed, and serve.

The icing on the cake was a surprise visit by our Vice President, Mike Pence. He talked of a record number of pro-life and pro-family justices appointed to the Federal Bench in 2017. He highlighted the U. S. Embassy being moved to Jerusalem. He and Tony Perkins talked of a window of opportunity for revival in our nation and the world.

I understand the ultimate solution is the Second Coming of Jesus and Heaven, but how good to hear fellow believers celebrating the goodness of God.

We sometimes become cynical and join Elijah under his juniper tree (I Kings 19:4). We too often buy in to "us 44 and no more — the pure and the few." But God told Elijah on Horeb that He had 7,000 who had not bowed to Baal. Some of us need to get up and move from our juniper tree to Horeb. The key to Elijah's transition was rest and refreshment. We must rest in the Lord and find our nourishment in

Cheer Up!



Lt. General William Boykin and Kenny Digby

the Word. Our World View on social, moral, and ethical issues must be Bible-based and theologically tested.

With Elijah, we must "Arise and eat" (I Kings 19:5) if we are to disciple the next Elisha.

On Wednesday night we toured the Capitol after hours and heard David Barton (President of Wall Builders) tell story after story on the Christian Heritage of our nation. We visited a prayer room just off the rotunda. We visited the old Senate chamber where a "church" regularly met. Revisionists have rewritten our history, and many Christians have believed it.

A trip to the Bible Museum was part of our meeting. I'm glad the Bible has a place of prominence in our national capitol. Biblical truth must be the foundation for any ethical principles.

We are on the winning side. We will lose some battles, but we win the war.

Someone said "Cheer up, it could be worse. So, I cheered up and it got worse." I say, "Cheer up, regardless." "Rejoice in the Lord always: and again I say, Rejoice" (Philippians 4:4 KJV).

Digby is executive director-treasurer of the Christian Action Commission. He can be reached at (601) 284-9163/office, (662) 284-9163/cell, or by e-mail at kdigby@christianaction.com.

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WINDOW AND SCREEN SHOP — windows and storm windows built to fit your opening. Plus new window screens and rescreen old screens. Call Tom Cook 601-709-4879.

AFFORDABLE BEACHSIDE VACATION CONDOS: GULF SHORES & ORANGE BEACH, AL. Rent direct from Christian Family Owners, lowest prices on the Beach. www.gulfshorescondos.com, 251-656-4935, 205-556-0368, 251-752-2366.

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STAINED GLASSWORKS, INC., SERVING MS & AL since 1992. Call 800-805-2970.

WWW.SEBRENHOMEIMPROVEMENT.COM. Christian owned Don & Rita Sebrén. 601-992-2092. All home improvements, siding, energy efficient windows, metal & shingle roofs, screen & sunrooms, patio covers, decks, room additions, kitchen & bath upgrades.

PULPIT SUPPLY AVAILABLE: Retired Southern Baptist Navy chaplain available for Sunday pulpit supply on short notice (pastor illness, vacation, rest, etc.). 100 mile radius of Hattiesburg. Deacon of Hardy Street Baptist Church. Graduate of New Orleans Baptist and Fuller Theological Seminaries. References available. Compensation unimportant. Contact him at 601-408-4608 or bennyhornsby.com

MS POSITIONS

SPRINGDALE CHURCH, RIPLEY, MS IS PRAYERFULLY SEEKING A FULL-TIME STUDENT MINISTER TO WORK WITH GRADES 7-COLLEGE AGE. Housing is provided but not required if local. Send resume and testimony to simckee2003@yahoo.com or mail it to Springdale Baptist Church 581 East Walnut Street Ripley, MS 38663.

FBC OF WIGGINS IS TAKING APPLICATIONS FOR CHURCH SECRETARY. Persons interested should have a relationship with Christ and should be technologically knowledgeable. Duties include: receptionist in the church office, maintaining and managing files, and assisting office personnel. Interested applicants are directed to email a resume to Rick Burris at rick.burris22@gmail.com.

INDIAN SPRINGS BAPTIST CHURCH IN LAUREL, MS IS SEEKING A FULL TIME ASSOCIATE PASTOR AND WORSHIP LEADER AND A FULL TIME ASSOCIATE PASTOR AND STUDENTS. Send resumes to the Personnel Committee, Indian Springs Baptist Church, 500 Indian Springs Church Road, Laurel, MS 39443.

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF LAUREL, MS IS SEEKING AN EXPERIENCED, FULL-TIME YOUTH MINISTER. Send Resumes to nbtally@comcast.net or Nancy Billingsley at 20 Tallahoma West Laurel, MS 39440. For more information, visit the church website at <http://fbc-laurel.org/youth-ministry/>

SEEKING A FULL-TIME PASTOR - BETHANY BAPTIST CHURCH. Located at Meridian, MS in the Whynot community of Southern Lauderdale County. Please email resume to office@whynotbethany.org or mail to Bethany Baptist Church, 4475 Ponds Road, Meridian, MS 39301.

Revivals & Homecomings



CALVARY CHURCH, SUMMIT, celebrated homecoming June 3 with the return of the Calvary Singers, who grew up at Calvary. Jon, Jeremy, and Gregory Greer were joined by Chad Rayborn with Anita Alexander on the piano. Jeremy Greer, speaker; Ellie Busby, homecoming chairperson; Mike Burns, pastor.

► **Singleton Church, Louisville:** Revival, June 17 - 20; Sun., 11 a.m. with lunch following and 6 p.m.; Mon. - Wed., 7 p.m.; Jim Porter, speaker; Patsy Moore, music; Lawrence Runnels, pastor.

► **Calvary Church, Louisville:** Homecoming, June 17; service, 11 a.m., followed by covered dish meal. ► **Wheeler Grove Church, Corinth:** Revival, June 18 - 20, 7 p.m. nightly; Bob Pittman, speaker.

Bible Drills

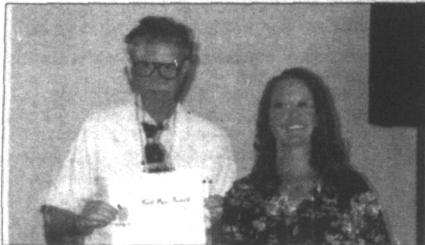


ACKERMAN CHURCH, ACKERMAN, recognizes its Bible drillers. Front row: Mimi Williams, Sadie Kate Wood, Raynee Claire Lucas, and Andrew Fulgham; second row: Jenny Wood and Jerene Parker.



TUSCOLA CHURCH, LEAKE ASSOCIATION, recognizes two student Bible drillers, Matthew Birdsong and Anna Shea Sturdivant; and one children's driller, Ethan Birdsong.

College News



MISSISSIPPI COLLEGE'S Beacon magazine earned a first-place award from the College Public Relations Association May 22 for an institutional magazine at Mississippi's senior college division. It won a grand award for best overall in electronic media for Beacon staffers in the same statewide division. It also won a first place award in the web page senior division. Shown is Andy Kanengiser receiving a first place award with Holmes Community college staff member Stephanie Wood.

Staff Changes



CENTRAL CHURCH, LITTLE YAZOO, has called Scotty Smith as pastor. He comes with his wife Rachel. Smith is a graduate of Slidell Baptist Seminary. He and his wife are parents to Cody, Rebecca, Dakota, and Dylan.



WEST SHADY GROVE CHURCH, WAYNESBORO, has called Stephen C. Smith as pastor effective May 27. He comes with his wife Sherry.

Vacation Bible School



DESOTO CHURCH, SHUBUTA: Vacation Bible School 2018.

In VBS News:

► Memorial Church, New Augusta: June 18 – 22, 6 – 8:15 p.m.; ages 4 – adult.

BIBL i O C I P H E R

HUG PHAAJR WX NHDDHYPN; HUG
YPFX NPHAA DF H NZCU DFYRFFU WF
HUG XJK, YPHY XF WHX MUJR YPHY Z
HW YPF AJLG XJKL CJG.
FSFMZFA YRFUYX: YRFUYX

Clue: W = M

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: Isaiah 26:2

By Charles Marx, 1932–2004, © 2005

THE 7 LAWS OF THE LEARNER

LIVE PRESENTATION | www.mbc.org/7laws

BIG QUESTIONS?

God's word brings purpose, direction and assurance to our lives. So **WHY** does the established church see a decreasing number of people attending Bible study? **WHY** do researchers tell us that 95% of students stop attending church after graduation? **WHY** does the world struggle with ethical and moral issues? **WHAT** is the problem? Most presenters "teach" for information and not for transformation.

The Mississippi Baptist Convention, in partnership with Walk Thru the Bible Ministries, is hosting three **LIVE** presentations of the **7 Laws of the Learner**. The investment of time is significant – but the benefits will be eternal. The only cost to participants is the lunch and refreshments provided throughout the day. Each attendee will receive a notebook, engage in a dynamic learning experience, and leave with a new understanding of how to impact learners through encounters with God's word.

Gather your teaching team and make this a priority for your Adult, Student and Children's leaders. To Register go to: www.mbc.org/7laws or for more information call 601-292-3291 to talk to Sarah Lee in the Sunday School/Small Groups Department.

COST: \$13 pre-registration, \$15 at the door

July 28 – FBC Tupelo

August 4 – FBC Clinton

August 18 – Main Street Baptist Hattiesburg

Just for the Record



MOUNT VERNON CHURCH, LAUDERDALE ASSOCIATION, recently held a baby dedication for two families. Shown are pastor Paul Trosper; Billy, Kyleigh, and Aubrey Mooney; and McKenzie, Danielle, and Nick Love.



LOCUST HILL CHURCH, PONTOTOC ASSOCIATION, ordained Bradford Goodwin and Steve Brooks as deacons Mar. 18. Shown, front row, are Goodwin and Brooks; back row, Archie Goodwin, David Ross, and Glen Reeder.



FIRST CHURCH, HELENA, ordained William Parmer Sr. and Matthew Ditsworth to the gospel ministry June 3. Ditsworth is the church's minister of music. Shown are Parmer, pastor Sean Wilkinson, and Ditsworth.



FIRST CHURCH, LYMAN'S, YAH members attended the 2018 senior day retreat at First Church, Columbia.

In other Church News:

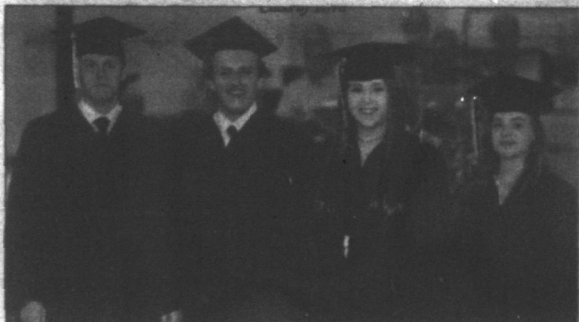
► **Popps Ferry Church, Biloxi**, honored deacon Sterling Daniels, 93, Nov. 12, 2017. Biloxi mayor Andrew Gillich declared Nov. 12 as Sterling Daniels Day. Daniels received a certificate from the mayor and a plaque from the church in appreciation for his service. Daniels also was honored with a luncheon.



CRAPE CREEK, CHOCTAW COUNTY, recognized its graduates. Shown are Kirk shearer and Harley Pittman with pastor Brad Latham.



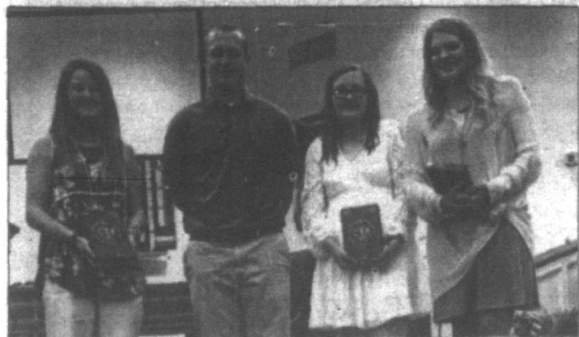
MT. HOREB CHURCH, MERIDIAN, recently held a baby dedication. Shown are pastor Jim Hutchison and Paul & Melissa Dutton with daughter Paisley.



HAMILTON CHURCH, HAMILTON, recognized their 2018 high school graduates. Shown are Todd Robinson, Ethan Holley, Cheyenne Rhodes, and Cheyenne McInnis. The students received an engraved Bible.



SUNRISE CHURCH, CARTHAGE, broke ground on their multipurpose building May 20.



FIRST CHURCH, POTTS CAMP, honored their high school graduates May 20. Shown are Hailey Stacks, Dylan Minor, Abby Cook, and Karlie Bolden.



LAKE WASHINGTON FIRST CHURCH, GLEN ALLAN, held a baby dedication May 20. Shown, photo 1, are pastor Jimmy McLendon and Mr. and Mrs. Keith King with daughter Mary Waldon; and, photo 2, McLendon with Mr. and Mrs. Chip Purvis with their daughter Annalise Catherine.



Patterson releases open letter to Southern Baptists

FT. WORTH (BP) — Following is an open letter released June 8 by Paige Patterson, after his dismissal as president of Southwestern Seminary in Ft. Worth by trustees of the Southern Baptist institution. It is reproduced here verbatim and unabridged.

Letter to Southern Baptists from Paige Patterson

Dear Southern Baptist Family:

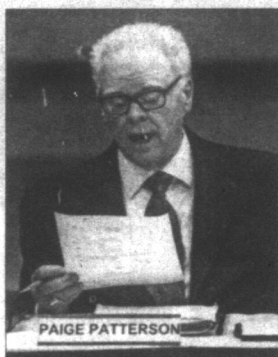
On May 22 the trustees of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary met together in a board meeting called at my request. At that meeting, in which I briefly participated, I was asked to assume the position of President Emeritus of Southwestern, and I accepted this reassignment. One week later, May 30, the executive committee of the board met, though this time I was not asked to participate and was unable to address or answer questions for committee members since I was in Germany for a preaching assignment. While in Germany, I received a phone call informing me I had been relieved of all responsibilities with and compensation from the Seminary effective immediately.

Since much has been reported and written about these matters in recent weeks, I wanted to address briefly a few points. It is not in my spirit or my heart to debate or revisit the decisions of the trustees to whom I was accountable as president of Southwestern, other than the brief comments that follow.

Recently, I have been accused, publicly and privately, of a number of things — none of which I acknowledge as having done in the way portrayed, and others that I am confident I absolutely did not do. I'll just speak to several examples. First, a poor choice of words has occurred, in and out of the pulpit, over decades of ministry. I regret each case in which my heart and message were not clearly presented.

On the other hand, I take exception to accusations that I ever knowingly ignored or failed to follow appropriate protocols in cases of reported abuse of women, students, or staff at any institution where I have served. Indeed, the Southwestern trustees confirmed as much in their public statement of May 23, 2018: "The board affirmed a motion stating evidence exists that Dr. Patterson has complied with reporting laws regarding assault and abuse."

For my words, demeanor, sentiments, or disposition to have been twisted to suggest the very antithesis to who I am and the biblical message I have presented over half a century not only is crushing to me and my family but also inevitably proves hurtful



PATTERSON

to others in the process. I have never sought to inflict hurt upon a woman or man.

For the last 43 years, through service in three institutions, I have attempted to prepare pastors and missionaries academically, evangelistically, and spiritually for kingdom endeavors. Today, on behalf of my sweetheart Dorothy, who has labored faithfully by my side through both sorrows and triumphs, and on behalf of my children and grandchildren, I want to express my gratitude to God for Southern Baptists. You have often encouraged our hearts. You have prayed for us in a multitude of ways. I would ask of no one of you more than you have given. What I have given back is a pittance compared to your kindness to me.

I wish further to thank the faculties and administrators who have held high my arms during both calm and raging waters. I love you all. To all of my students, including nearly 10,000 graduates whose diplomas I have personally signed, I thank you for your uncommon love for me, and more important, your unwavering devotion to our Lord.

To those who have ever opposed me or have embraced a different vision, I would be remiss if I did not thank you also. Your opposition kept me on my face before God, reminded me of just how very human I am, and outlined in tantalizing colors the mercies of God, which I have received in profusion from our Lord. I pray for heaven's kindness for each of you.

At age 75, while my occupation has changed, my calling and passion have not been disturbed. Soon Southwestern will have a new president. I am riding off into the setting sun — but with a Bible in my hand and a witness from my heart until He comes for me individually or for us all in the air. I ask Southern Baptists to hold the new president of Southwestern before God in earnest prayer. He will be a great

man, but the level of his attainment will be dependent to a large degree on your concert of prayer. I know that you will not fail in this endeavor.

In a few days, for the first time in 66 years I will not attend the annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention — having begun attending when I was nine. As many of you know, I was elected in 2017 to deliver the 2018 annual convention sermon, but I have now respectfully requested to be released from this high privilege because I do not want my role as a preacher to detract in any way from the important business of our convention and because my desire is to work toward biblical harmony at our annual meeting. Many messengers have implored me to carry out this assignment, but this convention is not about me, and I have every confidence that this decision is best and right.

Now, may I just leave you with a challenge? I have with stumbling step, limited ability, and stuttering tongue desired to bequeath to the world an orthodox denomination with a heart and message for a world of lost people. My part is small in the amazing history of the people we call Baptists. But as insignificant as it may be, I will be praying every day that you will cling to the whole Bible — the Word of the living God and at the same moment give that Word to every lost person on this globe, knowing that Christ died for all and that every man, woman, boy, and girl who comes to the Lord Jesus in saving faith will be saved. Would you join me in that endeavor? Please link your hearts with Dorothy and me in expressing thanksgiving to our Lord for His abundant mercies to us all.

PATTERSON

cont. from p. 1

ask him for any input whatsoever." The release's aim was "character defense," Sharpe said, and "to straighten out erroneous statements that are in" a June 1 statement released by Southwestern trustee chair Kevin Ueckert.

The news release was separate from any severance negotiations with Southwestern, Sharpe noted.

Sharpe said Southern Baptists should pray "that God will provide for [the Pattersons] as is appropriate and that those things that have been spoken falsely will come to light and be seen for what they truly are."

Patterson is "in the process of moving out" of the president's home on the Southwestern campus, Sharpe said, and "under negotiation" with the seminary about final details of the separation.

Submission Guidelines

The Baptist Record is pleased to publish news and photographs of special events that take place in cooperating churches of the Mississippi Baptist Convention. News items and/or photographs depicting benefits and activities for secular or outside organizations will not be published.

Preferred method: news may be submitted electronically to the e-mail address below, and must be included in the message segment of an e-mail form. Secondary method: news may be typewritten or neatly printed on 8 1/2 by 11-inch paper and mailed. All articles must be received in writing; no articles will be accepted over the telephone. Due to ever-present virus threats, no text attachments will be accepted. Photograph attachments in JPEG format are permissible.

Please make articles concise. Include the who, what, when, where details of the story, along with a contact person's address and telephone number.

Photographs must be submitted electronically via e-mail, as attachments in JPEG format. **Hard copy photographs mailed through the postal service will not be accepted.** Photographs must be clear, sharp, and well-lit. Photographs must depict people. No landscape, building, or object-only photographs will be printed. Photographs containing inappropriate gestures and objectionable clothing will not be published. Cell phone photographs and other low resolution items that do not reproduce well on newsprint are generally not publishable.

There is no guarantee that news items and/or photographs will be published, and unsolicited material will not be acknowledged or returned. All news items are subject to editing, and all photographs are subject to cropping. News items and/or photographs can be published one time only. Deadline for submitting news is one week prior to requested publication date. Articles that are not date-sensitive will be published on a space-available basis. These guidelines are not meant to be exhaustive.

Submit news to The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. FAX: (601) 292-3330. E-mail: baptistrecord@mbcb.org.

Truth is not relative.

Find it in the One who is the way, truth, and life.

Simply share the following prayer with God in your own words:

1. Lord, I admit that I need you. (I have sinned.)
2. I want forgiveness for my sins and freedom from eternal death. (I repent.)
3. I believe Jesus died and rose from the grave to forgive my sins and to restore my relationship with you. (I believe in Jesus.)
4. By faith, I invite Jesus Christ into my life. From this time on, I want to live in a loving relationship with Him. (I receive Christ as my Savior and Lord.)

"But as many as received him, to them he gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in his name." (John 1:12)

If you make a decision for Christ today, contact a local Southern Baptist church for spiritual guidance.

CROSSOVER

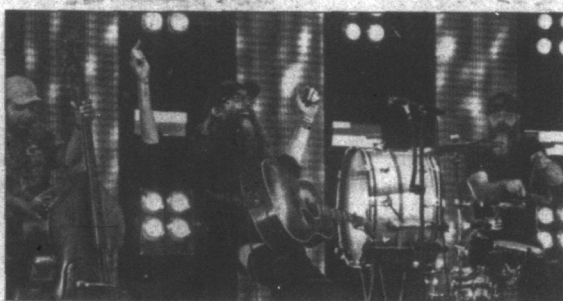
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Eastvale, Ca.; Harvest Orange County in Irvine, Ca.; and Harvest Church at Kumulani in Kapalua, Hawaii.

Laurie brought a message of unity in Christ and salvation to a crowd that preliminary counts put at 35,000 people. Laurie repeatedly pointed those in attendance to the cross of Jesus.

The event was simulcast around the world. "We wanted to make sure that those who could not attend in Dallas could still hear what we had to say about Jesus Christ," Laurie said.

At the end of the evening, Harvest America reported that 2,300 made salvation decisions at the event, conducted in the home of the NFL's Dallas Cowboys.



SINGING PRAISES — Christian artist David Crowder sings I'll Fly Away during Crossover Harvest America June 10 at the AT&T Stadium in Dallas. He also performed All My Hope and I Saw the Light to a crowd of 35,000. (BP photo)

The crusade included musical guests Switchfoot, Crowder, Trip Lee, Phil Wickham, and Chris Tomlin, who kicked off the event with a mix of new music and classic songs that sup-

ported the crusade's straightforward, evangelistic message: the world needs Jesus.

"There is Someone who loves you and Someone who values you," Laurie said. "He's called

Jesus Christ. He'll give you a future worth living."

Laurie said the event could not have come at a better time as the nation and the world seem to be on edge with each other and themselves. Pastor Graham agreed.

During a tribute before his message to evangelist Billy Graham, Laurie said, "In every generation, music will change, customs will change, many things will change, but never the Gospel. Our God is able to do abundantly more according to the power of Jesus who works in us. This generation desperately needs good news."

Sunday night's crusade followed a week of evangelistic Crossover Dallas activities throughout the city. Participants from all over the area and the nation came into town early before the Southern Baptist Convention's annual meet-

ing so they could take part in outreach activities.

Believers who brought friends to the event were encouraged by how clearly the Gospel was proclaimed.

"This was a great opportunity for people to hear, 'God loves you,' said attendee Brian Cole, minister of communications and worship at Hillcrest Church in Cedar Hill, Texas.

Sabrina Gordon, who made a 20-minute drive to Arlington, said she was drawn in by the music and "captivated by the artists who used their talents God gave them."

Laurie ended the evening by inviting people to the stadium floor if they wanted to begin a relationship with Christ. "No matter what, come with your sins. Come with your questions. Don't live another day without Jesus Christ."

OBITUARIES

Leonard Walters, age 71, retired Mississippi Baptist pastor and school bus driver, passed away May 27 at his home in Petal. He was a member of Water Oak Church in Wayne County. He was preceded in death by his parents, Thelma Lofton and L.D. Walters, and his parents-in-law, Rose Lee and Anderson Summers. Walters is survived by his wife, Daisy Walters of Petal; two daughters, Teresa (Chris) Burgess of Hattiesburg, and Tina McDonald of Petal; one son, Melvin Walters of Hattiesburg; one sister, Ruby Hughes of Hattiesburg; and six grandchildren. Funeral services were May 30 at Moore Hattiesburg Chapel, followed by burial in Highland Cemetery in Hattiesburg. Moore Funeral Home in Hattiesburg was in charge of arrangements.



WALTERS

Edward L. McMillan, retired vice-president for graduate and special programs and professor of history at Mississippi College in Clinton, died May 24 at Beau Ridge Memory Care in Ridgeland. McMillan grew up in Attala County and graduated from Kosciusko High school. He received his B.A. from Mississippi College (MC), his M.A. from the University of Mississippi in Oxford, and his Ph.D. from Texas Tech University in Lubbock. He taught 10 years at Wayland Baptist University, Plainview, Texas; 12 years at Louisiana College, Pineville; and 31 years at MC where he served as chair of the history and political science department. During his tenure at MC, he chaired the triple anniversary steering committee, directed the college self-study for SACS (Southern Association of Colleges and Schools); served as a member of SACS Reaffirmation Committee for five institutions, and directed the MC presidential inaugural committee in 1995. He was listed in Who's Who in South and Southwest, Outstanding Educators; Who's Who in America, Personalities in the South, American Scholars; and Who's Who in Education. In the community, he served a president of the Clinton Chamber of Commerce and was elected Clinton's Outstanding Citizen. At First Church, Church,



McMILLAN

Clinton, he was a Sunday School teacher; served as deacon for almost three decades and chaired the Deacon Council twice; and served on the finance committee and as a trustee. McMillan is survived by his wife of 67 years, Carnette Rackley McMillan; sister, Martha Ann Thweatt of Kosciusko; half-brothers Lester McMillan of Sallis and Henry Hutchison of Kosciusko; children David McMillan of Front Royal, Va., and Dale (Karon) McMillan of Clinton; five grandchildren; and two great grandchildren. Funeral services were May 30 at First Church, Clinton. Burial followed at Clinton Cemetery. Wright and Ferguson Funeral Home in Clinton was in charge of arrangements.

Anne Washburn McWilliams Morse, age 89, of Clinton, longtime staffer at The Baptist Record, news journal of the Mississippi Baptist Convention in Jackson, passed away May 22. She was born March 22, 1929, and raised in the Ridge Grove community of Chambers County, Alabama. In 1953, she joined the staff of The Baptist Record where she eventually rose to the position of associate editor before her retirement in May 1992. The daughter of the late Emmett and Johnnie Lou Washburn, she was preceded in death by husbands, William David McWilliams and Jerry Morse; and sister, Betty W. Brown. Funeral services were held May 25 in the Wright & Ferguson chapel in Clinton. Wright and Ferguson Funeral Home in Clinton was in charge of arrangements.



MORSE

Olyn Floyd Roberts, age 90, retired Mississippi Baptist pastor, passed away June 7 at the Martha Jo Leslie State Veterans Home in Kosciusko. Roberts was born February 10, 1928, in Louisville. He received degrees from Mississippi College in Clinton and New Orleans Seminary. He was a pastor for many years and a member of Poplar Flat Church, Louisville. Roberts is survived by his daughter, Debbie (Mike) Scire of Starkville; two granddaughters; four great grandchildren; and two sisters-



ROBERTS

in-law. He was preceded in death by his wife, Eloise Roberts; parents, John and Belle Roberts; son, Mike Roberts; sisters, Willie Bell and Margaret; seven brothers, Dossie, Fred, James, Johnny, Billy, Sam, and Bobby Joe; and one great grandson. Funeral services were held June 9 at Evergreen Church, Louisville, followed by interment in Memorial Park Cemetery, Louisville. Porter Funeral Home in Louisville was charge of arrangements.

Jack Edward Maroon Sr., age 88, former Mississippi Baptist pastor, died June 5 at Methodist University Hospital in Memphis. He was born October 14, 1929 in Memphis, the son of the late Pearl Adelf Maroon and Lillian Ethel Williford Maroon. He was named pastor emeritus of First Church, Belmont, in 2010 after 38 years of service. At the time of his death, Maroon was pastor of Double Springs Church, Savannah, Tenn., where he served for the past 13 years. Maroon was a graduate of Hume High School in Memphis and Memphis State University, from which he graduated in 1961 with a bachelor of science degree. He also received training from a Bible school in Fulton and was ordained as a minister by Hollywood Church, Memphis. Other Tennessee churches served by Maroon included Oak Grove Church, Martin; and Franklin Road Church, Memphis. Other Mississippi churches served by Maroon included First Church, Shannon; Emmanuel Church, Starkville; Red Bud Church, Dennis; and Harmony Church, Amory. He is survived by his wife of 29 years, Fae Priddy Ross Maroon of Belmont and her son, Thomas "Tommy" Ross, Jr.; sons, Jack Edward (Maria) Maroon Jr. of Crisfield, Md., and Mark Loren (Lynn) Maroon of Belmont; daughter, Karis Rebecca Maroon (Daniel) Vernon of Southaven; six grandchildren; and two great grandchildren. Along with his parents, Maroon was preceded in death by his wife, Rachel Lourie Wright Maroon; sisters, Ruby Maroon Court and Dorothy Maroon; and brothers, James, William, Charles, and Robert. Funeral services were June 8 at First Church, Belmont, followed by interment in Belmont City Cemetery. Deaton Funeral Home in Belmont was in charge of arrangements.

Charles Allen Rodgers, age 70, retired Mississippi Baptist pastor and associa-

tional missions director, died June 4 at his home at Cotton Plant as the result of a farm accident. He was born August 10, 1947, to the late Ben and Ruby Wood Rodgers. He was a member of First Church, New Albany. Rodgers served as pastor of Amariah Church in Union County; Algoma Church in Pontotoc County; Bel Aire Church, Gulfport; and East Philadelphia Church, Philadelphia. He served as associate pastor of Grace Memorial Church, Gulfport; First Church, McComb; and Lakewood Church, Memphis. He was director of missions for Jackson County Association in Pascagoula and had recently retired as director of missions for Union County Association in New Albany. He also served as interim pastor at several local churches. Rodgers was a veteran of the United States Air Force. In honor of his military service, the United States Air Force flag was flown for the duration of his funeral services June 8 at United Funeral Service in New Albany. Rodgers is survived by his wife, Debra Cousar Rodgers; son, Bradley Allen (Christina) Rodgers; daughter, Aimee Rodgers (Josh) Bogdash; sisters, Frances (Bob) Byrd, Marie (Johnny) Pilcher, and Pat (Wayne) Wilhite; brother Hal (Martha) Rodgers; and four grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his parents and brothers, Bobby Rodgers and Hugh Thomas Rodgers. United Funeral Service in New Albany was in charge of arrangements.



RODGERS

Jewell Greer, age 55, Mississippi Baptist minister of music, of Meridian, passed away June 1. He was minister of music at Russell Church, Meridian, for 30 years. Survivors include his wife, Lisa Jo Greer; sons, Jayce (Renee) Greer and Noah (Kelsey) Greer; two grandchildren; parents, Hubert and Delores Greer; sister, Becky (Greg) Lockhart; and brother, Ronald (Jennye) Greer. Funeral services were held June 5 at Russell Church, followed by interment in Forest Lawn Memory Gardens in Meridian. Robert Barham Family Funeral Home in Meridian was in charge of arrangements.



GREER

THE VILLAGE VIEW



Sean A. Milner, Executive Director
P.O. Box 27
Clinton, MS 39060-0027
(601) 922-2242
www.baptistchildrensvillage.com

GIFTS OF HONOR AND MEMORY

A portion of The Village View is allocated each month to a list of Gifts of Honor and Memory. Many groups and individuals elect to pay tribute to others through this sensitive, meaningful, and helpful medium. This feature is hopefully designed to further honor, with taste and respect, those who are and have been special to our special friends.

APRIL

MEMORIALS

Jonathan Tedford Partington
Ms. Peggy Jo Tedford
Jenny Ruth Patrick
Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth Hawkins
Mrs. Mary Sandra Turner Perry
Mr. & Mrs. Vernon Shelton
Ms. Kathy Pettit
Jerusalem BC
Mrs. Carolyn Phelps
Mr. & Mrs. Jimmy Jenkins
Ms. Thelma Thompson Pittman
Mr. & Mrs. Larry D. Glass
Mr. Paul L. Poole
Marilyn, Shane & Amber
Harvey
Mr. & Mrs. Clay Campbell
Mr. & Mrs. Paul D. Albritton
Mr. & Mrs. Ted Poole
Mrs. Wilda L. Butler
Jessie V. Cline
Mr. & Mrs. Bob Pressly
Pat Jackson
Mrs. Julia Nell Porter
Mr. & Mrs. Herman L. Dungan
Mr. & Mrs. Jimmie L. Manton
Ms. Avil C. Pruitt
Faye & David Bledsoe, Dale
"Bart"
Mr. Mike Putt
Mr. & Mrs. Jimmy Jenkins
Robert Richard "Dick" Reynolds
Historic Clarke County Inc.
Friends at L. Braude - HR
Operations
Mr. Robert Robbins
Mr. & Mrs. Gene D. Saucier
Charles Roseberry Jr.
Mr. & Mrs. Monty Roseberry
Aunt Margaret Rushing
The Rogers Family
Jim Sargent
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Alumni

THE BI-ANNUAL ALUMNI REUNION

The Baptist Children's Village and Mississippi Baptist Orphanage

Saturday, July 14, 2018
10:00 a.m. — 3:00 p.m.

Everyone who attended the 2016 Reunion enjoyed our time together at Eagle Ridge Conference Center in Raymond so we are returning there this year. Please save the date and begin now inviting more folks from every campus. We have plenty of picturesque space for an enjoyable celebration for all ages.

Schedule

10:00 a.m. | Registration and Fellowship with your BCV brothers and sisters.
12:00 p.m. | Lunch and BCV ministry update.
1:00 p.m. | A visit down memory lane through pictures and yearbooks
\$20.00 Alumni Dues (alumni only) | \$5.00 Each additional guest lunch
Child Care Available from 10:00-12:00

Onsight overnight rooms are available. You must make reservations by June 22, 2018.

Deluxe Rooms: \$85.00 (Single and double occupancy)

*Parlor Suites: \$125.00 (Single and double occupancy)

*Up to 4 additional occupants can be booked for \$10 each.

Call 601-857-3626 for reservations and mention The BCV

Eagle Ridge Conference Center

1500 Raymond Lake Road | Raymond, MS 39154 | 601-857-3626

Register at this website:

<https://www.baptistchildrensvillage.com/connect/alumni-association>

OR contact Chrystelle Thomas, BCV Public Relations Director

at 601-922-2242 or chrystelle@baptistchildrensvillage.com.

BCV EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

The BCV employs Christian, mission-minded, husband and wife teams, without dependent children or pets, to serve in the position of Houseparents. The couples must be mature Christian adults with personal integrity, character and of good reputation with standards and ethics expected of any member of The Baptist Children's Village staff.

They receive a salary with benefits and are provided a private bedroom and meals while on duty. The primary job responsibility of Houseparents is to maintain a home-like environment that models healthy, Christian family living for children and youth residents. They are the primary caregivers and help with everything from transportation and homework to laundry and meals when on duty.

Houseparent responsibilities are varied and somewhat dependent upon which campus and to which cottage the couple is assigned. However, all Houseparents need to be in good physical, mental and emotional health. They must be cooperative and comfortable working in a team environment.

To apply for the current Houseparent openings, please contact Celeste Cade at ccade@baptistchildrensvillage.com or 601-922-2242.

A complete job description and application may be downloaded at www.baptistchildrensvillage.com.

Celebrated • 2 Samuel 5:9-12; 6:12-19

The introductory material for chapters 5 & 6 in our Leaders Guide says, "The two chapters we are considering cover a long period of time, and during this time David was a good and successful King. He honored God, defeated Israel's enemies, unified the people, and governed well."

Before this period, David had to run and hide from Saul but totally refused to show disrespect to God's chosen. David punished the one who claimed to kill King Saul. Also, David had the assassins of Ish-bosheth, Saul's son, executed. This respect is one of the reasons that David is called a man after God's own heart. His seeking God's will in every aspect of life is another reason. Remember 2 Samuel 2:1, "Sometime later, David inquired of the Lord: 'Should I go to one of the towns of Judah?' The Lord answered him, 'Go.' Then David asked, 'Where should I go?' To Hebron," the Lord replied. So David went there" 2 Samuel 2:1-2 (HCSB).

We must remember that no one is perfect [All of us have sinned and fallen short of God's glory," Romans 3:23 (CEV).] Like most powerful people, David's power and wealth begin to affect him negatively. At first, this was subtle and David's successes continued to abound. David reigned in Jerusalem over all Israel and Judah for 33

years. David took Jerusalem by military force. The Jebusites thought themselves undefeatable since the people of Judah failed to defeat them in Joshua 15. "The Jebusites lived in Jerusalem, and the people of the Judah tribe could not capture the city and get rid of them. That's why Jebusites still live in Jerusalem along with the people of Judah," Joshua 15:63 (CEV).

Here is the answer to one of the pressing questions for June 2018, "Why does Israel claim Jerusalem as their capital?"

"The King and his men marched to Jerusalem against the Jebusites... The Jebusites had said to David 'You will never get in here.'... Yet David did capture... the city of David. ... David took up residence in the stronghold," 2 Samuel 5:6-9 (HCSB). The Jerusalem that David conquered around 1000 BC was a much smaller place than the Jerusalem of today. David called it the City of David, a title used today for that small section of Jerusalem.



Explore the Bible with Don Hicks

David called his capital "The City of David" to strengthen his claim to total sovereignty over the city and the United Kingdom of Israel. We are now well into our focal passage for today. King David busied himself consolidating power, fortifying his capital, and with grandiose construction projects. The writer of 2 Samuel says it this way, "David took up residence in the stronghold. ... He built it up all the way around from the supporting terraces inward. David became more and more powerful, and the LORD God of Armies was with him," 2 Samuel 5:9-10 (CSB).

King Hiram of Tyre sent envoys with cedar logs and carpenters and stonemasons to build David a fine palace to rule from. This extravagant palace consolidated David's claim to power. It is also from the roof of this comfortable luxurious home that David lusted for Bathsheba and made two of the greatest mistakes of his life. We will look more at David's sins with Bathsheba

when we get to that part of 2 Samuel. But to have the context of what was developing in David's personal life we need to look at 2 Samuel 5:13 (CEV): "After David left Hebron and moved to Jerusalem, he married many women from Jerusalem, and he had a lot of children." During the last part of David's life these children would fight among themselves and even rebel against David.

Polygamy was very common among the absolute monarchs of this period of history. The kings and rulers exercised their power, made and consummated alliances, and demonstrated their wealth by having large harems (wives were considered property). This was never consistent with God's plan for marriage and family and was always problematic. Jesus explained what God's plan has always been from creation. Here is the way Jesus Christ said it in His own words, "But from the beginning of creation, 'God made them male and female.' Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh. So they are no longer two but one flesh. [What therefore God joined together, let not man separate," Mark 10:6-9 (ESV).

Hicks is associational missions director for Jasper Association in Bay Springs.

Why Can't We Fix It? • Deuteronomy 5:32-33; Galatians 3:10-12, 19a, 24-25

Failing to keep God's commands, we sin. (Genesis 3:1-7; Romans 3:23) Sin has consequences. (Genesis 3:16-19; Romans 6:23) We try harder not to sin, and we sin again. Our lives are broken. Why can't we fix them?

Deuteronomy 5:32-33. God established a standard for us to live in relationship with Him.

The Ten Commandments established a covenant between God and the people of Israel. "You must be careful to obey all the commands of the Lord your God, following His instructions in every detail...you will live long and prosperous lives in the land you are about to enter and occupy," Deuteronomy 5:32-33 (NLT, emphasis mine.) The Law establishes a very high and demanding standard: worship one God; don't make any images; don't misuse God's name; keep the Sabbath; respect your parents; do not murder, commit adultery, steal, lie, covet. More than once God promises His "unfailing love for a thousand generations on those who love Me and obey My commands." Deuteronomy 5:10 (NLT)

Galatians 3:10-12. We sin and are incapable of meeting God's standard.

In verse 10, Paul quotes Deuteronomy 27:26 when he states that "the Scriptures

say, 'Cursed is everyone who does not observe and obey all the commands that are written in God's Book of the Law.'" (NLT) From the time we are born we have a tendency to sin. "For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God's glorious standard," Romans 3:23 (NLT) Because of our sinful nature, it is impossible for any of us to keep all of God's laws and commands. The only man to accomplish the keeping of the Law in its entirety was Jesus Christ. Jesus was tempted in every way that we are tempted; but He did not sin (Hebrews 4:15).

Galatians 3:19a, 24-25. The Law gave a temporary provision until Christ came.

"Why, then, was the Law given?...to show people their sins...designed to last only until the coming of the child who was promised." Galatians 3:19 (NLT) In verses 24 and 25, Paul adds that the Law was our "guardian until Christ came; it protected

us until we could be made right with God through faith." In the beginning of Galatians 3, Paul asserts that Abraham was not made right with God by keeping the Law, but by his faith (vs. 6).

Paul begins Galatians 3 with a question: "Oh, foolish Galatians! Who has cast an evil spell on you?" Galatians 3:1a (NLT) "...who has hypnotized you?" (HCSB) "...who has bewitched you?" (KJV)



Bible Studies for Life with Lisa Bannister

The Galatians had accepted Jesus and received the Holy Spirit by believing in the life, death, burial, and resurrection of Christ (v. 2). Instead of walking in the Spirit, they had begun to try to keep the Law and rules and regulations. They were replacing their faith with "human effort" (vs. 3) NLT.

Jesus said He did not come to negate the Law, but to fulfill it. Matthew 5:17 (NLT) In another conversation, Jesus said that "the entire Law and all the demands of the prophets are based on these two commandments: 'love God and love people. Matthew

22:34-40. Over and over Scripture asserts that God is more interested in our hearts and attitudes than He is in our sacrifices and deeds. David was a man who sinned and sinned and sinned; yet, David was loved by God because of the position of his heart. God loves us because of His Son, Jesus Christ, not because of our human efforts.

When one of my sons was thirteen years old, he brought me a sheet of notebook paper and said, "Mama, please, write down everything I should and should not do so that I can be a Christian." Whether knowingly or not, many religions have been created for just that purpose -- a plan for man to work his way to heaven.

There is only one way to a relationship with God and everlasting life. That way is Jesus. John 14:6 (NLT)

Is the Father calling to you: (Your Name), who has bewitched you? Why are you trying to use human effort to follow me?

As we are faced with daily decisions, we must let the Spirit guide our lives moment by moment, one decision at a time, choosing to love God and love people. Paul says that when we let the Spirit direct our lives, we are not "under obligation to the Law of Moses." Galatians 5:16-26 (NLT)

Bannister is a member of Woodville Church, Woodville.

LOTTIE

cont. from p. 1

Baptists' 3,551 international missionaries.

The total represents money received by IMB or postmarked by the close of the last business day of May 2018, and includes receipts from the SBC Executive Committee in Nashville, state

Baptist conventions, churches, and individuals.

Freeman also reported that at the end of May, IMB had received \$66,840,768 in Cooperative Program (CP) funding for the 2017-2018 fiscal year, which started Oct. 1. This total is \$1,014,337 (1.54%) ahead of last year in gifts from Southern Baptist churches channeled through state Baptist conventions.

The LMCO campaign year historically ran from June 1 to May 31 each year, but that campaign year system did not align with IMB's fiscal year, which runs January 1 to December 31. To help alleviate confusion, IMB finance leaders in conjunction with the IMB board of trustees proposed to align the fiscal year and the LMCO campaign to begin October 1 and run through September 30.

Messengers voted to approve the fiscal year change during the 2017 SBC annual meeting in Phoenix. Therefore, gifts contributed from Oct. 1, 2017, to Sept. 30, 2018, will apply to the 2017-2018 LMCO.

IMB trustees gathered June 11 in Dallas prior to the state of the SBC annual meeting at the Kay Bailey Hutchison Convention Center. Fort-seven

missionary candidates were presented to trustees during the 2:45-4:15 p.m. session in the Hyatt Regency's Marsalis Hall B for appointment during the Tuesday evening SBC session.

For information about giving to support Southern Baptists in London, Mexico City, and other hard-to-reach places, visit imb.org/giving-update/.



EVANGELISTS' REPORT — A consortium of evangelists met March 2-3 in Jackson, Tenn., for a summit that resulted in a mid-May white paper on Southern Baptists' use of vocational evangelists. (BP photo)

SBC evangelists call for more scheduled 'harvest' events

JACKSON, Tenn. (BP) — In what's been called the first official statement from Southern Baptist evangelists to pastors, a consortium of vocational evangelists says increased scheduling of "harvest" events could help reverse the downward trend in baptisms in the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC).

"There is a desperate need for evangelistic expository preaching followed by an invitation given clearly, honestly, courteously, urgently, expectantly, and with complete dependence on the Holy Spirit," according to a white paper released May 14 by evangelist Jerry Drace and a coalition of 14 other evangelists he convened for a March 2-3 summit in Jackson, Tenn.

"The Vocational Evangelists in the SBC are available to assist the pastors in drawing the net whatever the Harvest Event," according to the white paper.

Drace and Union University faith and culture professor Hal Poe drafted the white paper with input from the other evangelists on multiple drafts.

A vocational evangelist for more than 40 years, Drace told Baptist Press (BP) that before the white paper, Southern Baptists had "never had an official statement from evangelists to pastors of how we can hopefully partner with them and work with them."

The white paper, published before the SBC's Annual Church Profile data for 2017 was released June 1, noted eight declines in baptisms over the previous 10 years of available records for Southern Baptists.

The 295,212 baptisms recorded in 2015 marked the

lowest total since 1947, according to the white paper.

According to BP reports, in 2016 baptisms fell below 1947 totals, and baptisms dropped again in 2017 to 254,122, though some of the decline may be attributable to a decline in reporting by churches.

Along with the decline in baptisms, the white paper stated, the number of Southern Baptist evangelists has dropped from more than 600 in 1975 to fewer than 100 today. It added that churches seem to be hosting fewer events led by vocational evangelists than they did in the past.

The paper cited a survey by the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association which found evangelists' "greatest frustration" is the apparent decline in churches using evangelists.

"Not using evangelists and scheduling evangelistic events has contributed to our present day crisis of declining baptisms," the white paper stated. "The concern is developing the forms [of evangelistic events] which are most effective. As has been proven in recent years, the decline in revivals and other Harvest Events is in direct correlation to the decline in baptisms in the SBC."

Specialized evangelists like sportsmen, financial planners, and doctors, Drace said, can use their evangelistic gifting at specialized events that meet a church's unique needs.

Among the white paper's specific recommendations:

- Develop partnership between pastors, their churches, and evangelists.

- Schedule quarterly Harvest Events within each local church.

- Develop creative and innovative evangelistic events which involve multiple churches, and/or the entire association on an annual basis.

- Use evangelists in witnessing and discipleship training.

- Create partnerships between strong churches and financially challenged churches with low baptisms and sponsor an evangelist who can lead a Harvest Event.

Drace said "revival meetings are still very, very much a part of the Great Commission." He hopes this month's SBC annual meeting in Dallas, where he will be a candidate for second vice president, will spur "an emphasis on evangelism."

David Stockwell, president of the Conference of Southern Baptist Evangelists, told BP in written comments, "Billy Graham often said that the church needs to use the gift of the evangelist more. We pray that God will use the white paper to encourage our leaders to do just that. We are praying and going with the Gospel; we want to bring others with us to reach out in our local communities as well as internationally."

"There is so much more that we could all do together if we would give the highest priority to doing all that we can, in the power of the Holy Spirit, to share the Good news of Christ in our Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and to the ends of the earth. God is ready to make this happen," said Stockwell, one of the evangelists who assisted with and endorsed the white paper.

The full white paper is available at sbcevanglist.org/white-paper-report/.

Boko Haram hostages located, freed in Nigeria

BORNO, Nigeria (BP) — Nearly 150 children and adults enslaved by Boko Haram Islamic extremists for sex and labor have been rescued from a remote camp in Borno state, Nigeria's defense leaders said June 4.

The rescued hostages, comprising 15 men, 58 women, and 75 children revealed... that the Boko Haram terrorists had sexually violated the females and used them as sex slaves," the military said in a press briefing after the June 3 rescue. "The men were not spared, as they were regularly engaged in forced labor while in the captivity of the terrorists."

The captives were rescued during counterinsurgency operations in the Bama village of Modu Kimeri and transferred to the Bama Internally Displaced Persons (IDP) Camp for care, the military said. Other details about the freed hostages, such as the length of captivity and hometowns, were not disclosed.

The rescue came just days after Amnesty International accused Nigerian military officials of themselves raping and abusing internally-displaced persons in their care since 2015, including those held in Bama.

Amnesty's May 24 report, *They Betrayed Us*, accuses Nigeria's military officials of using their authority, as well as food and other basic necessities to coerce women into sex, "which amounts to rape under international law."

"I arrived with 130 other women and children [in early 2016]," Amnesty quoted Bama IDP resident Hauwa as saying. "You'll see a military man with food in the hand and he'd say, 'If you like me take this food.' If you accept the food, later he'd come back to you to have inter-

course. If you refuse, he'd rape you [using physical force]."

Among Hauwa's group, 58 died from hunger and thirst in their first four months as IDPs, Amnesty said.

Nigeria has denied Amnesty's report, citing training and disciplinary actions to counter sexual violence and abuse at its camps.

"Rape is an outright aberration. In the Armed Forces, we maintain that we do not condone rape and do not have rapists among us," Brig. Gen. John Agim, acting director of defense information, said in a June 1 press statement. "The Military has several measures in place to regulate the conduct of troops and to define their relationships with members of their host communities."

Nigeria's two most populous camps in Borno State, Bakasi and Dalori, together house more than 45,500 IDPs, Agim said. The military would investigate any reports of rape made in camps, he vowed.

In the June 3 counterinsurgency operations that freed 148 hostages, Nigeria's military also uncovered guns and ammunition.

Millions of Nigerians, many of them Christian, have been displaced by Boko Haram violence extending nearly 10 years. The terrorists have claimed allegiance to the Islamic State, also known as ISIS, and have killed more than 20,000 people in attempts to establish strict Sharia law in Nigeria.

The terrorists have kidnapped many, with the 2014 kidnapping of 276 Chibok school girls and the 2018 kidnapping of 101 Dapchi schoolgirls the most widely reported cases. Of those, about 100 Chibok students and one Dapchi student are still believed missing.



RESCUED — Nearly 150 hostages held by Muslim terrorist group Boko Haram were freed in military operations June 3 in northeast Nigeria. (BP photo courtesy of Nigeria Defense Headquarters)